The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter summarizes briefly the news of important matters affecting labor, concerning in the fields, trial, legislative, and political fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade-union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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SUSPENDED LABOR LAW EQUALS A LOST BATTLE

San Francisco, May 12.—The Bulletin, published in this city, commenting on the suspension of labor legislation, because of the war. The editor declares that the suspension of one law is equal to a lost battle.

"Reactionaries will undoubtedly seize upon the supposed necessities of war to break down what they can of the humane labor legislation of the past decade," he says. "Pennsylvania coal mine operators are already complaining of a shortage of labor, due partly to enlistments and partly to the migration of mine workers into the munition plants, and have suggested that the hours of labor must be increased and the laws forbidding the employment of children under 16 suspended. It is only a matter of weeks before such demands will be numerous and well organized. The employers who make them may believe that they are sincerely patriotic, and that it is a service to the country to increase production for the impending the protection, limited enough at all times, which is given by law to women and children. But most of the labor laws rest on sound sociological and biological knowledge, and were enacted because permanent conditions were deteriorating the human stock. For 'efficiency' during the war the children and mothers of children were being crippled for life. Boys under 16 years have been kept out of the mines because it was shown that work undergrowth at any early age prevented them from growing up into strong and healthy men. If the restriction should be lifted a certain number of boys who would ordinarily reach healthy manhood during that period would will have their lives shortened or their future usefulness seriously impaired. If the restrictions on the hours and plan conditions of women are lifted the birth rate would decline, the death rate among babies will increase, and the health of the next generation will be somewhat poorer. For the sake of a slight addition to the national productivity now the welfare of 20 years hence would be sacrificed. If this act were necessary for the preservation national survival it might cheerfully be made, in the same spirit in which young men go to the firing line, but until the conspicuous consumption of luxuries and vanities has been greatly cut down it is unnecessary and would be a wicked folly. One humane law suspended is as bad as a lost battle; and if one law may be suspended, no Prussian compulsion applied, and every policy subjected to the test of its probable results rather the war as well as its applicability to present needs, there will be no lost battles."

SHOP MEN MAKE GAINS.

Conneaut, Ohio, May 12.—After negotiations with the Nickel Plate railroad for over five months federated shop men have secured an agreement with the following gains:

Work day reduced from 10 to nine hours; compulsory physical examination every six months; increases range from 3 to 6 cents an hour for every employe; increases to be effective from April 1; minimum rate of 41 1-2 cents for all mechanics; clause in agreement provides that either side can open negotiations on 30 days' notice.

Representatives of the federal department of labor assisted in the settlement.

Pittsburg, Pa., May 12.—The Wabash Terminal company has raised wages of all shop men 4 cents an hour.

New York, May 12.—Conferences of federated shop crafts officials with the Lehigh Valley & Hudson River railroad company have resulted in an agreement to raise wages 2 cents an hour for all craftsmen.

MUST LEARN BARBERS' TRADE.

Lansing, Mich., May 12.—Governor Sleeper has signed the Wagner bill amending the barbers' law so that apprentices must serve two years before they can secure a state license.

Boston, May 12.—Barbers' unions Nos. 182 and 668 are enforcing a wage scale which increases weekly wages from $13 to $16. Holiday work is eliminated, except on Mondays and Saturdays.

Edwardsville, Ill., May 12.—After a short strike Barbers' Union No. 656 secured agreements which guarantee a weekly wage of $14 and 6% per cent on all $25. The old scale was a $12 guarantee and 40 per cent over $18.

ROCKEFELLER BREAKS PROMISE.

Berwind, Col., May 12.—Miners employed by the Colorado Fuel & Iron company (Rockefeller's concern) at this place and at Tobasco have notified Sopris and Starkville miners that they are willing to join them in a strike to stop union victimization. The company is attempting to populate the Rockefeller "union," and has discharged active members of the United Mine Workers, despite the announcement of Rockefeller, Jr., that organized workers will not be discriminated against.

BABES MUST BE PROTECTED.

Philadelphia, May 12.—"Every hour of 1915 claimed a toll of 12 British babies' lives," said Lady Aberdeen, wife of the former governor general of Canada, in an address in this city.

"In the same year," she continued, "the number of British soldiers killed in battle averaged nine an hour." The speaker urged mothers to demand to be let "the wonderful child welfare work be pushed aside or minimized."

GAINS AT YOUNGSTOWN.

Youngstown, Ohio, May 12.—Sheet metal employes here signed the new wage agreement of Sheet Metal Workers' union which goes into effect in one year and raises rates $1-3 cents an hour.

The one-year wage agreement of Electrical Workers' union, effective today, has been signed by employers, who agree to pay an additional 40 cents a day or a minimum rate of $5.

GRAND JURY SYSTEM FLAYED.

Boston, May 12.—In a speech in this city Thomas Mott Osborne, ex-warden of Sing Sing (N. Y.) prison, attacking the grand jury system, the prison system all over the country, and the political corruption which he declared was responsible for the absurdity of the system.

AMEND COMPENSATION LAW.

Hartford, Conn., May 12.—Organized labor has induced the state legislature to strengthen the Connecticut workmen's compensation law. The waiting period is reduced from 10 to seven days and maximum compensation increased from $10 to $14 a week.

DALLAS COOKS UNITE.

Dallas, Tex., May 12.—Cooks employed in hotels and restaurants have organized with a large charter list.

CARPENTERS CONTINUE GAINS.

Indianapolis, May 12.—Secretary-Treasurer Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters reports continued gains by affiliates. The record issued this week includes:

Patterson, N. J.—Increase from 50 to 55½ cents an hour; Coffeyville, Kan.—50 to 56 1-4 cents, Laporte, Ind.—45 to 50 cents, Hartford, Conn.—50 to 62½-2 cents, Brantford, Ont.—45 to 50 cents; El Paso, Tex.—62 1-2 to 75 cents. Morris, Ill.—45 to 50 cents, Lewanee, Ill.—50 to 55 cents, Auburn, N. Y.—45 to 55 cents, Marseilles, Ill.—50 to 55 cents; hours reduced from nine to eight, Johnson City, Tenn.—40 and 45 cents to 40 cents; nine-hour day made general, Geneva, N. Y.—42 3-4 to 50 cents, Cincinnati—45 to 62 1-2 cents until May 1, 1918; 66 cents thereafter, Zanesville, Ohio—45 3-4 to 52 1-2 cents, East St. Louis, Ill.—42 1-2 to 70 cents, Lowell, Mass.—43 to 46 cents for millmen, Michigan City, Ind.—37½ cent minimum, Hickwood, Ind., Va.—52 1-2 to 60 cents, Elyria, Ohio—50 to 60 cents, Philadelphia, 45 to 50 cents for outside men, Lakewood, Pa.—55 to 40 cents for outside men; 36 to 30 cents for inside men; nine-hour day; Wichita, Kan.—47 1-2 to 50 cents, effective August 1. Muscatine, Iowa—42 3-4 to 50 cents until May 1, 1918; 55 cents thereafter. Ardmore, Okla.—45 to 50 cents, Berwyn, Pa.—55 to 60 cents, Jenkintown, Pa.—50 to 57 1-2 cents. Pottstown, Pa.—40 to 50 cents, Scranton, Pa.—45 to 50 cents until May 1, 1918; 52 1-2 cents thereafter. Burlington, Vt.—44 to 50 cents, Newport News, Va.—42 3-4 to 50 cents, Cincinnati (box makers)—New agreement; $1.50 increase. Terre Haute, Ind.—50 to 55 cents. Springfield, Ohio—45 to 55 cents; hours reduced from nine to eight; Saturday half holiday. Hamilton, Ohio—47 1-2 to 45 cents, White Plains, N. Y.—From $4.50 to $5 a day; eight hours and Saturday half holiday. Beacon, N. Y.—Carpenters, $4.50 to $5; millmen, $4.25 to $4.50. Great Falls, Mont.—$5.60 to $6.40. Elmira, N. Y.—$5.60 to $6. Lake Placid, Saranac, N. Y.—$4.80 to $5.20 for outside men; $4.25 to $4.65 for millmen. Bar Harbor, Me.—$5.60 to $4.

FAVOR FIFTY-HOUR WEEK.

Boston, May 12.—The house of representatives amended a committee's adverse report on the so-called "48-hour bill" providing for a 50-hour week for women and minors engaged in manufacturing and mercantile establishments.

The Massachusetts law provides for a maximum work week of 54 hours for women, and the new 50-hour week Representative Crowley said:

"Almost every advance movement in the interest of labor or humanity has been opposed by employers. It was so with the 56-hour week and then with the 54-hour week for women. So it came, and then were finally won, and now employers are fighting again. They claim they cannot afford to reduce women's hours, and they are too close to the verge already, but I have seen to read you their statement, read from a financial publication urging the investment of capital in Massachusetts mills.

POSTAL WORKERS UNITE.

Washington, May 12.—The amalgamation of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks and the Brotherhood of Railway Postal Clerks, both affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, has been effected under the title National Federation of Postal Employes. The jurisdiction of the new organization will extend to all the organizations it supplants, covering post office clerks and railway postal clerks. The executive committees of the two organizations will be merged, with Thos. F. Flaherty, present secretary of the Brotherhood, as chairman, Secretary, and Carl Freeman, secretary of the railway clerks, as treasurer.

PROGRESS IN TENNESSEE.

Nashville, Tenn., May 12.—Although trade unionists in this state failed to secure anti-injunction and workmen's compensation laws, their efforts toward remedial legislation resulted in the abolition of the convict lease system, a constitutional amendment providing for a day, free text books, child labor law strengthened, bath rooms and lockers for foundry employes, regulating manufacture and sale of mattresses, and regulating private employment agencies.

CO-OPS PAY DIVIDENDS.

Gillespie, Ill., May 12.—The Co-Operative society at this place has paid dividends of 7 per cent to members. The total receipts of this organization are $38,477.36, and the membership totals 524.

BUILDING CRAFTSMEN GAIN.

Hartford, Conn., May 12.—Building craftsmen have settled their differences with employing contractors. Electricians will receive $4.80 a day; bricklayers, $5 a day, an advance of 25 cents; hoisting hters, a minimum wage of $5 a day; painters, decorators and paper hangers, 50 cents an hour, or $25.00 a week; plumbers, $5 a day, or $27.50 for a week of five and one-half days; lathers, $3.35 for 1,000 laths.

RAISE WAGES OF LABORERS.

San Francisco, May 12.—Wage increases from $2 to $3 a day for city laborers, track laborers and platform men employed by the municipal railway line is recommended by the supervisors. Advocates of the plan said it was not a matter of bookkeeping, but a matter of giving the men a wage that will meet present living costs.

MINERS STRIKE; IGNORE LAW.

Walsenburg, Col., May 12.—Six hundred miners employed by the Rockefeller concern in this county suspended work to secure a wage rate equal to that recently granted United Mine Workers by the Victor-American Fuel company. The strikers ignored the "can't-strike" law of this state.

SHOP MEN SUSPEND WORK.

Boston, May 12.—Refusal of the Boston & Albany railroad to meet a committee on its shop grievances has resulted in a strike. More than 300 blacksmiths, machinists, boiler makers and helpers, car men, carrepairers, and laborers quit.

TWO BALTIMORE WAGE GAINS.

Baltimore, May 12.—The Wall Paperers' union has raised wages from $2.50 to $3 a day and the Hodcarriers' and Building Laborers' union has increased rates from 32½ to 37 cents an hour.

STRIKE OF UNORGANIZED.

East St. Louis, Ill., May 11.—About 100 unorganized employes of the cotton seed oil plant suspended work to secure better wages. They are asking for 12 hours and raise wages.

PATRIOTIC, BUT ON GUARD

By PRESIDENT GOMPERS, IN AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

As our nation rapidly swings through changes necessary for the transition from a peace to a war basis there is developing the beginning of an attitude totally at variance to the genius and the institutions of democracy—the spirit of intolerance. As we are torn from the moorings of peace and face the unknown dangers of a fight for national rights or humanity there are not lacking indications of failure to discriminate between measures for protection and measures that destroy all that gives our republic meaning.

In order to protect ourselves against dangers suspected and feared, an effort is being made to pass legislation which would impair fundamental rights which are the basis for all our freedom.

An "espionage bill" is now under consideration by congress which would sweep away freedom of press and speech. The people of this country have a right to know the general plans and purposes of those to whom they have entrusted the conduct of the war.

Of course, the details of military and naval strategy in order to be effective must be kept with the degree of secrecy, but the people who must stand behind those plans in order to make these plans effective have the right to general information and they have a right to express their opinions and convictions thereon.

We can not protect our country against insidious foreign instigation of plots and intrigue by depriving all of our people of their fundamental constitutional rights. Defense and maintenance of America's institutions do not depend upon drastic resolutions completely altering the very nature of conditions and relations.

If we turn back the pages of history to the early years of our republic, we find that the country passed through a similar trial. The different elements of nationality were welded together into a composite whole than they are at present. There were then fewer traditions and ideals in common. All of Europe was at war. There were foreign plots to force this nation to take sides in the conflict. Congress passed the drastic alien and sedition laws.

Those laws were not effective in protecting us against foreign intrigue but they did react disastrously to institutions of freedom in this country. They were taken advantage of by that element that desires to fasten upon the masses of the people ignorance, prejudice, denial of their rights, are more easily made to serve the selfish interests of others.

There are now in this country evidences of this same spirit.

LIGHT ON MOONEY CASE ASKED.

San Francisco, May 12.—The San Francisco Labor Council has called on the state attorney general to promote the ends of justice in the Mooney case in view of recent exposures connected with the trial that resulted in a death sentence to the defendant.

"In addition to charges of perjury and subornation of perjury at the trial," it is stated, "it is also charged and strongly intimated that 'men higher up' whose identity is known, but not yet revealed, have aided the prosecution in securing false conviction by the corrupt offer and use of money. Such condition in the administration of law and justice is subversive of all law and legal authority, and in aforesaid case constitutes a public calamity and a grave menace to property and free institutions.

"The unionists petition state authorities to investigate this case and charges, 'and to take such other and further action as may be found necessary and proper to vindicate the innocent and punish the guilty, to the end that our criminal laws and procedure may be justly and impartially administered and our common liberties preserved.'"

The labor council recommended that all affiliates donate a sum equal to one hour's pay per member for the accomplishment of this purpose.

STREET CAR MEN GAIN.

Peoria, Ill., May 12.—Street Car Men's union No. 411 has signed a one-year agreement with the Peoria Railway company. The new wage scale is as follows: One year, 28 cents an hour; over one year and up to two years, 29 cents; two years or more, 30 cents. Time and a half for all and 29 cents. For the first time the contract provides for the union shop.

Chicago, May 12.—Organized street car unionists on the surface lines of this city ask the City Railway company to increase wages. In reply the unionists make public the 1916 financial report which shows the company earned 7 per cent and the net earnings of the company increased nearly 2 per cent over the previous year; profits were $6.7 per cent and dividends to stockholders, 9 1-4 per cent.

BOOKBINDERS ADVANCE.

Indianapolis, May 12.—The official journal of the International Union of Bookbinders reports that Union No. 110, Houston, Texas, has rallied wages $2 a week; that Union No. 1 of Boston have secured wage increases; an active organizing campaign is being conducted by the youth; that Cloud, Ill., has organized; four locals in St. Paul and Minneapolis have amalgamated into one powerful organization, and the only bookbinding establishment in Buffalo, N. Y., that refused wage increase has signed the union's agreement.

RETAIN SEAMEN'S LAW.

San Francisco, May 12.—"Some big shipping interests are trying to have the pension of the seamen's act during the period of the war," says the Labor Clarion, "but so far just enough votes have been secured to defeat it. In fact there is less reason for complaint against it now than in normal times. Many owners are reaping larger profits than ever before and can well afford to share them at least a small degree with the men who brave the dangers of the sea and the submarine on every trip."

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Joplin, Mo., May 12.—Every electrical contractor in this city has signed the new scale of Electrical Workers' union. Wages are increased from $4.80 to $5.76 for an eight-hour day.

Uniontown, Pa., May 12.—The Electrical Workers' union has secured the eight-hour day and an $6 scale. The nine-hour day contractor has signed the new agreement.

FREIGHT HANDLERS STRIKE.

San Francisco, May 12.—About 400 freighters have declared a strike and have suspended work because the company refused to meet their wage demands. According to this last power, Southern Pacific earned 12 1-2 per cent last year on its total capitalization, while the gain of nearly 3 per cent over 1915.

BREWERY WORKERS GAIN.

Dallas, Tex., May 12.—Brewery Workers' union has raised wages $2 a week and secured working rules following a conference with employers.

Joplin, Mo., May 12.—Brewery workers have secured improved working conditions and raised wages $2 a week.

UNIONISTS INVITE FARMERS.

Anniston, Ala., May 12.—Officers of the state federation of labor have invited the Farmers' union to send fraternal delegates to the sixteenth annual convention, which will be held in this city beginning May 21.

PIPE CAULKERS RAISE WAGES.

New York, May 12.—Pipe Caulkers and Tappers' union No. 56, affiliated with the A. F. of L., has secured wage increases from $4.50 to $5 a day.

TRUST IN STATE ACTION STAYS HUMAN EFFORTS

Oakland, Cal., May 12.—A blind confidence in sympathy and an indolent trust in state action must not supplant individual effort by the workers, declared Paul Scharrenberg, secretary of the state federation of labor, in discussing minimum wage legislation before the state conference of social agencies. The speaker showed the fallaciousness of the plan have nothing new from the history of England in the sixteenth century.

Organized labor, he said, believes that the fundamental principles of democracy is the existence of democracy in industry and that they cannot be superceded by state action without imminent danger to our liberties.

"We all want a minimum or 'living wage' for every man and woman who toils, but we are hardly prepared to accept this kind of legislation as a solution for the labor problem. We feel certain if we accept the process of reasoning upon which this proposed legislation is based, it will be only a question of time until other far more objectionable laws will be advocated and placed upon the statutes. Then the workers' organized movement will be surrounded with restrictive legislative restrictions which will not only seriously interfere with all the normal functions of our organizations, but actually retard the healthy development and growth of the labor movement.

"We have been asked times without number to accept substitutes for minimum wage laws. We say, let the large body of wealthy employers who have organized labor instead of antagonizing it. Let the churches and societies of the country join with public-spirited men and women who are anxious to help the workers. Let them help to bring together with the organized men and women of labor to achieve the desired results. But, above all, give them the opportunity to help themselves. This may mean a little personal sacrifice and annoyance, but will surely bring more real and lasting benefits than any legislative enactments."

"SHALL THE PEOPLE RULE?"

Cleveland, May 12.—Writing in the Locomotive Engineers' Journal, a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers reveals the history of the United States supreme court:

"The United States is the only nation in the world with a written constitution whose higher court exercises the power of vetoing the acts of a parliament, or other legislative body. England has no written constitution and judges of her higher courts are removable by parliament, which is the supreme lawmaking power of the land.

"Our present system was adopted in 1787, and for a period of 16 years, or until 1803, the question of the supreme court's power was never raised when the case of Marbury and Madison was tried before that court, Chief Justice John Marshall presiding. Both counsel for Marbury had been appointed justices of the peace of the District of Columbia by President John Adams, but for want of time his commission was never delivered. Marbury sued for a writ of mandamus of state, Madison, for the delivery of his commission. The court decided against Marbury, also rendering the startling decision that it not only had the right to pass on that case, but also to veto any act of congress that was contrary to the constitution. Thomas Jefferson, who was then president, would not even put the mandate of the court into effect if it had been made, and would have brushed impeachment proceedings against Marshall, which the latter knew, but his ingenious argument of the power of the supreme court had been taken hold in the minds of many. Jefferson had very decided views in regard to the supreme court. He said its members were the sappers and miners working night and day to undermine the fabric of our confederation.

"Some years afterward in the Yazoo Claims case, in which the above principle was involved, Andrew Jackson, who was then president, ignored the mandate of the court. Said Jackson: 'John Marshall has rendered a decision, now let's see him put it into effect,' and it was not put into effect.

"Succeeding presidents could have followed this lead, as Jefferson and Jackson except for that reverence for precedents and antiquity, and the result is that the powers of the dead furnish yet rule us from their urns."

PLUMBERS STRIKE.

Springfield, Mo., May 12.—The Master Plumbers' association has refused to meet a committee of striking journeymen plumbers and these workers suspended work. They want $5 a day instead of $4.50.

STRIKE AT EDISON PLANT.

Newark, N. J., May 12.—Metal Polishers' union No. 44 is picketing the plumbing works of the Edison plant, which has employed scores of non-union employes to secure cheap labor.

PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES.

Hartford, Conn., May 12.—Plumbers' union has secured the eight-hour day and a six-day week. The new wage rate is $5 a day.

WAGES BASED ON ACTUAL TIME.

Washington, Pa., May 12.—Judge J. A. McIlvaine has sustained the state workmen's compensation law in the matter of determining the average wage of an injured worker in continuous employment.

The decision was made in the case of the Pittsburg Coal company against Joseph Adamson, who was awarded damages for a mine accident. The court held that the average weekly wage should be determined by a series of computations in which only those months were divided into the total earnings for the period. This decision means that if a man works only one day in a week, his average weekly rate shall be six times his daily wage.

Organized labor contended that the deduction of days which the employe could not work because of conditions over which he had no control was an arbitrary proceeding. It was urged by the company that the average daily pay should be determined by dividing all working days into the total pay, only such days to be regarded as working days.

The compensation board has refused to accept this system, which is urged by labor, but has substituted for it a method amount involved in the Adams case was only $15.78, the company quite willing to accept the board's rule.

Judge McIlvaine sustained the board.

STEREOTYPERS GAIN.

Omaha, Neb., May 12.—In the official journal of the International Stereotypers and Electrotypers' union, President Prest records the following recent gains:

Omaha, Neb.—Day work (seven and one-half hours basis)—Foremen, $24 a week; journeymen, $22.50 a week. Night work—Foremen, $5 a night; journeymen, $4 a night. Overtime, eight hours' work.

Wichita, Kan.—Two-year agreement for newspaper stereotypers. Foremen's scale, $30 a week; other scale $28 during 1918. Journeymen's rates $22 a week this year and $23 during 1918. This is a new organization, which has been in existence only three months.

Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, May 12.—One-year agreement with the Post; increased wages and working conditions, apprentice regulations.

LAWYERS CAN'T SET WAGES.

Boston, May 12.—The state senate has passed a bill which prevents lawyers from serving on industrial wage boards chosen by the state minimum wage commission that sets wages for women.

In supporting the measure one senator declared that the wage boards which has established only four wage cases in the state, whereas the lawyer's bills in his said, "the members of the wage boards cannot agree," and that the bill was intended to eliminate attorneys from them by stopping the rich employer from hiring a "slick" lawyer to represent him.

BENEFITS REACH HIGH FIGURE.

Harrisburg, Pa., May 12.—During March of this year 154 agreements for compensation to dependents of workers killed in industry in this state were made. The total amount involved was $410,164.65. Compensation paid to injured workers during March totaled $200,000, thus making a grand total award for the month of $610,164.65. Commissioner Lord says that if this rate continues for the entire year the total compensation cost to Pennsylvania will exceed $7,500,000.

CIGAR MAKERS WANT MORE.

Hartford, Conn., May 12.—Cigar manufacturers, both local and suburban, are negotiating the increased wage demands of Cigar Makers' union, the first in over 12 years. The men are asking an additional $2 per thousand for hand-made and $1 per thousand on 5-cent cigars.

St. Paul, Minn., May 12.—Cigar Makers' union No. 84 has rallied wages $1 a thousand for all grades of goods.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Ogden, Utah, May 12.—Newspaper proprietors have signed a four-years' agreement with typographical union No. 236. Evening newspaper workers will receive $5 a day and night workers will be paid $5.50.

The union has also secured agreements with book and job office proprietors which provide for $3 a week for foremen and journeymen.

BAKERS' FUNDS SEIZED.

Hartford, Conn., May 12.—The Jewish Master Bakers' association has locked out its employes and attached the union's funds and the savings accounts of individual members. These workers protested against a violation of their agreement. This resulted in wholesale discharges.

RESULT OF UNIONISM.

Hartford, Conn., May 12.—Two years ago engineers and steam fitters and firemen were receiving $12 and $9 a week. Then they organized and their latest scale is $24 a week. Firemen's helpers' salaries started at $10.50 a week and are now $16.80.

TEXTILE WORKERS ADVANCE.

Philadelphia, May 11.—United Textile Workers' union No. 296 has raised wages from 3 to 15 per cent, following negotiations with employers. Increases in wages range from 3 to 15 per cent.

GAINS BY MACHINISTS.

Baltimore, May 12.—Machinists employed by the Baltimore & Ohio railroad have raised rates 4 1-2 cents an hour following conferences of railroad officials and President Johnston and his associates. Last April rates were increased 7 1-2 cents and an additional 2 cent increase conceded, to take effect May 1. Representatives of the federal department of labor assisted in the negotiations.

Toledo, Ohio, May 12.—Machinists' union No. 105 raised wages of its members employed by the Toledo Machine and Tool company and the Central Machine and Tool company. The latter concern has signed a union shop agreement and increased rates 7 1-2 per cent for one-half of the workers involved. Substantial increases are agreed to by the first-named company.

Beaver Falls, Pa., May 12.—Machinists' union No. 196 has signed a union shop contract with the Standard Horse Nail company. The eight-hour day, a $4 minimum and time-and-a-half for overtime when differences arise are agreed to.

St. Paul, May 12.—Machinists employed by the D., M. & N. and the Duluth & Iron Range railroads have been granted increases of 10 per cent, making the rate 55 cents an hour.

ATTACK FULL CREW LAW.

Harrisburg, Pa., May 12.—Opposition of railroads to the full crew law took a new form when these corporations asked that this legislation be suspended for the period of the war and six months thereafter. The state legislature, two years ago, repealed the "full crew" law over the veto of Governor Brumbaugh.

The railroads' latest proposal is embodied in a bill introduced by Senator McKee, which expresses the opinion "that the industrial situation may be relieved to a large extent by the suspension for a specified time of labor laws."

The Miller bill, which provides for the outright repeal of the full crew law and the regulation of train crews by the state railroad commission, has been left in the hands of the senate railroad committee for several weeks, but it is here that the railroads will devote their energies to secure the passage of the McKee bill.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Toronto, Ontario, May 12.—After negotiating wage differences for several months organized painters were compelled to suspend work. The employers quickly tired of wielding brushes and swinging in shaky scaffolds, so they are signing a two-year contract which raises wages from 35 to 40 cents an hour the first year and to 47 1-2 cents the second year.

Meriden, Conn., May 12.—Painters' union No. 685 has raised wages, unionized a big shop and secured an almost 100 per cent organization. The minimum rates are now 47 cents an hour for painters and 50 cents for paper hangers.

Berkeley, N. J., May 12.—Organized painters have raised wages from $3.75 to $4 a day.

WAGE GAINS IN NEW YORK.

New York, May 12.—Mineral Water Workers' union No. 12674, affiliated with the A. F. of L., has reached an agreement with employers which secures an eight-hour day at the old wage and the work week reduced two and one-half hours.

Cigar Box Finishers' union No. 15332 has secured a union shop agreement, an 18 per cent wage increase, which, it is believed, will give them the opportunity of the work week. The carrying of boxes and scrubbing of floors by these employes is abolished and other working betterments secured.

TRAFFIC BLOCKED ON "KATY."

St. Louis, Mo., May 12.—While railroad managers throughout the country are striving to give the best possible service in these war times, officials of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas ("Katy") railroad have blocked traffic in many sections of these states because of the attempt to disrupt the Order of Railroad Telegraphers.

The key men were forced to strike because of discrimination and freight and express shipments are piling up at various stations.

BOILER MAKERS RAISE WAGES.

Neodesha, Kan., May 12.—Boiler Makers' union has reached an agreement with the Standard Oil company and the following rates are paid: Caulkers, $2.1-2 cents an hour; riveters, 50 cents; helpers, 35 cents.

Chicago, May 12.—The strike of boiler makers in the Great Lakes Steamship Building company has been settled. The unionists secured improved conditions.

REJECT EQUAL PAY PLAN.

Boston, May 12.—On a roll call vote the state senate refused to reconsider its rejection of a bill which provides for equal pay for men and women teachers in the public schools of this city.

The fight against equal pay was led by Senator Wilson of this city who declared that "it would raise havoc with the city treasury."

SHEET METAL WORKERS GAIN.

Aurora, Ill., May 12.—Sheet Metal Workers' union experienced no difficulty in raising wages from 36 1-4 to 40 cents an hour.

Omaha, Neb., May 12.—The Sheet Metal Workers' union has established a 44-cent minimum. The old rate was 50 cents.

WHARTON'S GOOD ADVICE.

St. Louis, Mo., May 12.—"The main thing to do is to keep our unions intact and 100 per cent active in behalf of our future," advises President Wharton of the International Association of Machinists' Department in a circular to affiliates.

WINDOW CLEANERS STRIKE.

Denver, May 12.—Organized window cleaners have struck to secure an increase of 50 cents a day. The workers have paid no attention to the state statute which provides for 30 days' notice before employes can suspend work in a body.

DEFEAT WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Madison, Wis., May 12.—By a vote of 46 to 41 the state assembly defeated the women's suffrage referendum bill which provided for the state statute which provides for 30 days' notice before employes can suspend work in a body.

WIRE FENCE MEN ORGANIZE.

Adrian, Mich., May 12.—Workers employed by the wire fence industry have formed a union and secured from the manufacturers an increase of 10 per cent in wages.

BRITISH UNIONISTS VISIT THIS COUNTRY

Washington, May 12.—British trade unionists, guests of the United States on the invitation of President Gompers to participate in the conference between the members of the British war mission and representatives of the American government, arrived in the city last Saturday.

The delegation consists of Charles W. Bowerman, member of parliament and secretary of the British Trades Union Congress; James H. Thomas, member of parliament and general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen of Great Britain and Ireland; Joseph Davies, member of the secretariat of the prime minister, and H. W. Garvel, representative of labor, department of ministry of munitions.

On their arrival in Washington the delegation was met by a group of trade unionists headed by President Gompers, Secretary Morrison and Vice President O'Connell of the A. F. of L., and Secretary-Treasurer Perkins of the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department. Several conferences have already been held by the workers of the countries on the questions of the British trade union movement relating to the conservation and welfare of workers.

The American Federation of Labor is insisting that England's attitude toward its workers in the first period of the war must not be repeated in this country.

While a shameful policy is shown in the report of the British Health of Munition Workers' Committee, which states that there is no necessity in these times, that continuous work "is a profound mistake and that night work is more fatigue, irritation and sickness. The committee states that experience earlier in the war to the need for more relief than would have prevented a large part of the subsequent avoidable sickness. Recommendations include: Abolishment of seven-day labor for all workers; the shift system to be adopted wherever possible, and night work, where possible, should be suspended in eight-hour, rather than 12-hour, shifts.

GAINS BY BAKERS.

Chicago, May 12.—The Bakers' Journal records the following recent gains in wages and conditions in the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International union:

Cleveland—Union No. 56 secured wage increases of $3 a week per man. Newark, Ohio—New agreement with wage increase of $3 a week. Brockton, Mass.—Wages increased $2 a week; one apprentice to each crew. Providence—Wages increased $2 a week. New York City—Union No. 104 secured the week's one-half hour and raised wages $4 a week.

Other weekly gains are: Bridgeport and Stamford, Conn., $2; Peekskill, Pittsburg, Pa., $3 a week for union No. 204 and from $2 to $3 for union No. 12; Syracuse, average increase of $2 a week.

LABORERS RAISE WAGES.

Rockford, Ill., May 12.—Three clients ago four unions of building laborers were amorganized and paid uncertain rates. After they formed a union they secured agreements and are now paid 37 cents an hour.

Omaha, Neb., May 12.—Hod carriers and building laborers are enforcing their new scale of 37½ and 40 cents. Common laborers and 45½ cents for mortar mixers, hod carriers and scaffold builders.

ICE WAGON DRIVERS GAIN.

Rochester, N. Y., May 12.—Ice dealers averted a strike of their delivery employes by agreeing to the following summer schedule: Drivers, from $18 to $21; helpers, $16 to $20.

Dubuque, Iowa, May 12.—After a week's strike Teamsters' union raised wages from $14 to $17 a week. An $18 rate was demanded, but the workers accepted an arbitration award.

ELEVATOR MEN RAISE WAGES.

Philadelphia, May 12.—The Elevator Manufacturers' association has signed a three-year union shop agreement with Elevator Constructors' union No. 2. Former minimum rates of 35 a day for journeymen and $3.50 for helpers are increased as follows:

First year—Journeymen, $3.50; helpers, 42.05. Second year—Journeymen, $3.85; helpers, $4.20. Third year—Journeymen, $4; helpers, $3.94.

INCREASE COMPENSATION.

Boston, May 12.—The strength of organized labor in this state is manifested itself when that body increased the maximum weekly payments to injured workers from $14 to $18 a week. The rights of private insurance agents and some employers. Friends of the measure declared that the days of four-dollar potatoes 'ie was no enough.

8-HOUR DAY EFFECTIVE.

San Francisco, May 12.—Fully 5,000 workmen are building the government dry dock at Mare Island. Contracts for Seward and Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska, are also under way. The eight-hour day and good work under the eight-hour system, according to William C. Edes, one of the members of the railroad commissioners who is in this city.

WIN SHORT STRIKE.

Cincinnati, May 12.—After a one-day strike the Building Construction Employers' association has signed a contract with the Hoisting and Portable Engineers' union.

The agreement calls for an eight-hour day, time and one-half for overtime and wage increases.

PITIABLE WAGE CAUSES STRIKE.

Belleville, Ill., May 12.—Section workers employed by the Illinois Central railroad have been forced on strike because the company refuses to grant them a raise to establish a 10-hour day instead of living up to its promise of $1.90 for a nine-hour day.

BARTENDERS GET $2 RAISE.

Newark, N. J., May 12.—Bartenders' union No. 151 is having little trouble in securing signatures to its new scale which calls for a raise from $12 to $14 a week for a 10-hour out of a 12-hour day.

TO INVESTIGATE DISEASE.

Hartford, Conn., May 12.—Under supervision of the police the state commission on tuberculosis will investigate the sanitary conditions in the homes of employes of the Pope Manufacturing company.